

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007 – 6:00 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A budget work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the Municipal Building.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present: Mayor Lois H. Humphreys  
Mr. Robert M. Howard, Vice Mayor  
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.  
Mr. Edward B. Morgan  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe

Comprising a quorum of the Council

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Mark W. Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Of Finance  
Myra Cook, Director of Tourism  
Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning  
Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technologies  
Cecile Rosenbaum, Legal Assistant

Visitors: Dan Caldwell and Betsy White

Mayor Humphreys opened the meeting and invited Dan Caldwell to present an update to the Council on the Academy Drive/William King Regional Arts Center project. Mr. Caldwell informed the members that the property owners, Mr. and Mrs. Quetch, are not willing to sell at this time without some form of monetary compensation. Mrs. White joined Mr. Caldwell in encouraging the council members to consider funding this request so the Arts Center can go forward with their vision for the road. The Council took no formal action on this request.

**A. BUDGET WORK SESSION**

1. Department of Tourism – *Myra Cook, Tourism Director* – The Council made no changes to the proposed budget for the Department of Tourism as recommended by the Town Manager.
2. Planning Department – *Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning* – Mr. Jackson noted that the most significant addition to his budget was a request for an Assistant Planner

position as well as a Code Enforcement Officer. The Council made no changes to the Department of Planning as recommended by the Town Manager.

3. Information Technology Department – *Floyd Bailey, IT Director* – Mr. Bailey addressed the Council to discuss the most significant changes to his budget and those included the need for software licenses, network upgrades and equipment, computer refresh program and the proposal to employ an administrative assistant position to be shared with the Building Inspection Department. Mr. Bailey also discussed the Town Website and noted changes and improvements that he and the Council would like to see take place. Council voiced to Mr. Bailey its desire to vigorously pursue these changes and improvements to the Town website to make it as professional and user friendly as possible. This was to be given priority attention. Also Council expressed its desire to rapidly move forward with a wireless mesh system through the downtown area at Main Street.
4. Capital Projects Approved by the Council were as follows:

Dunn's Meadow	\$800,000
Farmer's Market	\$125,000
Dog Park	\$ 25,000
Depot Square Renovations	\$220,000
EVA Expansion	\$200,000
Pedestrian Safety	\$150,000
Coomes Center Fitness Trail	\$ 15,000
Academy Drive	\$175,000
Remsburg Drive Parking	\$ 25,000
Taylor's Hill Improvement Project	\$680,000
Municipal Building Renovation	\$ 80,000
Comprehensive Plan	\$ 10,000

5. Consideration of 2007-2008 Non Governmental Budget Requests

The Council made the following changes to the Non Governmental Budget Requests:

Barter Theatre	\$160,000
Washington County Library	\$ 7,500
Fields Penn House ( Wm. King)	\$ 50,000
Appalachian Independence Center	\$ 2,000
Transdominion Exp	\$ 1,000
Virginia Economic Bridge	\$ -0-
Crossroads Medical Mission	\$ 5,000

Animal Defense League	\$ 3,000
Wonder Kids Therapeutic	\$ 1,500
Boys/Girls Club	\$ 15,000
Crisis Center	\$ 1,000
March of Dimes	\$ 1,000
Small Business Incubator	\$ 60,000***

\*\*\*Council directed the Town Manager and Dr. Moore to find out more details of this request, inquire from the County how they were handling their request and report these findings at the next Council work session.

#### **B. UPDATE ON DUNN'S MEADOW ACQUISITION**

The Town Manager advised that he had secured a contract for the purchase of Dunn's Meadow for \$800,000 and had further engaged Bond Counsel, Webster Day, to assist the Town with acquiring a two (2) year loan to purchase the property.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

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Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Clerk